MoES Project: ‘Drugs from the Sea’
(Sponsored by Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi)

Advertisement for Project Proposals from Researchers in Universities and Research Institutes

In order to harness the bioactive principles from the vast marine biota occurring in Indian waters for human therapeutic purposes, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, has been implementing a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional Research and Development programme on ‘Development of potential drugs from ocean (Short title: Drugs from the Sea)’ since, 1991 with participation of several research labs and universities under the coordination of CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow.

With a view to strengthen the scope of the programme in the next Five Year Plan and draw more fresh talent, a call for research proposals under ‘Drugs from the Sea’ project is being made under the broad categories listed below. The marine bio-actives (extracts, fractions, isolated compounds and their analogues) from selected proposals will be evaluated for anti-cancer, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory activities at the labs identified by the MoES-CDRI.

1) Collection, extraction and taxonomical identification of marine flora, fauna and microbes (including marine symbiotic microbes, marine endophytes, etc.).

2) Isolation of chemical constituents from marine flora, fauna and microbes and their submission for the bio-evaluation.

Researchers in universities, academic and research institutes in the country are invited to submit detailed project proposals in the prescribed format of MoES. The proposals should highlight prior art and investigator’s track record in performing the proposed activities, viz., collection, full characterization of species, extraction, fractionation, isolation of compounds, etc. The submitted proposals shall undergo peer-review followed by detailed evaluation end presentation before the Steering Committee. Adequate details should be provided in the proposal to facilitate rigorous evaluation. These projects shall be considered for funding by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for consumables, justifiable equipments and limited manpower costs initially for a three year period with yearly performance based renewal. The proforma of proposal can be downloaded from CSIR-CDRI website (http://www.cdriindia.org/uploaded/moesadvertisement26122011.pdf) or Ministry of Earth Sciences website (www.moes.nic.in). For any query the proponents may write to The Director, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow (director@cdri.res.in).

A soft copy of the proposal is to be e-mailed to CDRI, Lucknow (drugs_sea@cdri.res.in) and five hard copies should be sent by post to The Director, CDRI, Chattrapati Shivaji Palace, Lucknow 226 001, UP, India. Last date for submission of project proposal in response to this advertisement is 15 February 2012.